

CHURCH AND STATE

A MONTHLY REVIEW



VOL. 12, NO. 9

OCTOBER 1959

Bizarre Aspects in Bremond Case



Sister and Smokey watch students recite in St. Mary's "public" school, Bremond, Texas.

As the Bremond, Texas, captive school case moved nearer to trial, Dale Francis, a paid Catholic propagandist, sought to sway public opinion in favor of the Roman Catholic captors of the Bremond public school with a hate-inciting article in the Catholic press entitled: "How One Man Kills Community's Unity."

Francis insinuated that those who had brought the law suit to restore to public control the public school in Bremond, had been responsible for the death of the local priest. (The priest, Fr. Stanislaus Kmiecik, one of the defendants, had died of a heart attack).

The Texas Baptist *Standard* replied with an editorial "Who Killed What and Whom?" It pointed out that the plaintiffs in the suit, Rev. Earl McIntyre, a Methodist pastor, and Rev. R. W. Terry, a Baptist pastor, had been hanged in effigy and that every possible pressure had been exerted to intimidate them and drive

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Buffalo's Candidates All From One Church

At a time when much is being said and heard about a religious test for public office, a study of the tickets in a number of American municipal elections proves revealing. In Buffalo, second most populous city in New York, every single candidate for every single office on both tickets this year is a Roman Catholic.

The Roman Church now claims 63% of the Buffalo population by its own figures. The remaining 37% are mostly Protestants and Jews.

Political leaders in Buffalo denied with the heat of honest indignation that there was any "religious test" for the Democratic or Republican tickets in Buffalo. They insisted that the Sixth Article of the Federal Constitution which forbids a religious test was being religiously observed in Buffalo and that the 100% Roman Catholic slates were pure coincidence.

Church Head Asks

Tax-Free Status Bad For Churches, Nation?

Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, immediate past president of the National Council of Churches, and chief administrative officer of the United Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., has thrown the spotlight on the intricate and sensitive issues involved in tax exemption for churches. His discussion appeared in *Christianity Today*, August 3, a fortnightly Protestant publication with editorial offices in Washington, D. C.

The erudite Dr. Blake, "Bishop" of the Presbyterian Church, has produced a provocative discussion which will likely be the most printed and quoted religious story of the year. The Blake thesis, in a sentence: "While all of us would doubtless hold that churches and their activities are 'desirable social undertakings' and, therefore may properly be encouraged . . . by government tax policy; nevertheless, tax exemptions which are proper when churches are small, poor and weak may have highly unfortunate results to the churches and to the society when the churches have grown large and rich."

"Donations"

Dr. Blake discusses not only exemption from real estate tax but also such a matter as exemption from corporate profits taxes on a church's commercial operations. He points to a practice growing more and more common in which owners of a business offer to "donate" it to a church which hires the owners back as its managers. The tax exemption thus achieved gives the operation a substantial advantage over competitors who must pay full taxes. The Presbyterian leader warns of unfortunate consequences which might result from such tactics. Such consequences might even be accompanied by "anticlericalism and atheism," he said.

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• Editorials •

What's Wrong With Peace?

It seems quaintly paradoxical to us that a church which continuously professes to be the "only true church" and therefore the repository of all grace and charity, should be so adamantly hostile to the visit of the Soviet leader, Nikita Khrushchev. Now we don't suppose Khrushchev's coming will accomplish much, but we fail to see what is so horribly wrong about it.

Yet, here is Catholic Action denouncing the whole idea in a tone bordering on hysteria. The *Catholic Register*, for example, quotes Cardinal Cushing as saying that Khrushchev's sole purpose in coming is to propagate Communism. The Cardinal urges that the U. S. "refuse to open (its) doors" to Khrushchev. The *Tablet* bitterly assails Khrushchev and denounces the invitation.

America, the Jesuit mouthpiece, praises the people of Scandinavia who reacted so hostilely to the proposed visit of the Russian premier that it had to be canceled. America tacitly encourages the American people to stir up a similar demonstration.

Examples

Catholic Actionist Mayor Miriani of Detroit would not even show up to greet Mr. Mikoyan, the Soviet's second-ranking official, when he recently visited that city.

Rep. John McCormack (D-Mass.), a Congressman always quick to follow the hierarchy's line, has blasted the Khrushchev visit and likened it to a visit by Hitler if he were to have come in 1938. Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) has expressed similar views. If there is a Catholic line on Khrushchev's visit—and there obviously is—it is to blast, block and frustrate the President's efforts toward peace.

The goal is to get it called off if possible or failing that, to nullify any pacifying effect it might have.

Why? Is the Vatican afraid that Russia and the United States might actually abate the cold war and move away from mutual nuclear annihilation? Is the Vatican so bent upon achieving its designs in Hungary, Poland and Russia itself that even the cause of global peace must be made secondary? Is a "Holy War" the goal of Vatican strategy?

No one has intoned more solemnly

and devoutly on the subject of peace than the Pope. He and his predecessor have written reams and spoken torrentially about their devotion to peace. But apparently this concern does not include common courtesy when one of the world's leading architects of war—or of peace—comes to these shores.

Kiss for a Corpse

Critics of church-state separation are nearly always guilty of equating official promotion and tax support of the church with what they call "friendliness to religion." They argue that if the state does not subsidize the church and give it varied forms of sponsorship, then the government is being hostile to religion.

A recent article in the *Yale Review* by Robert D. Cross exhibits this quaint but widespread aberration. The writer says: "Critics like POAU argue that the American tradition has required the state to maintain a serene obliviousness to the wellbeing and goals of the churches. They derive support from those who believe that all religion is an anachronism which in decency ought not to be displayed in public, as well as from some who believe that the guarantee of civil and religious liberty alike is for the state to remain absolutely disassociated from religious affairs."

The American Way

The writer simply does not understand the American way in church and state. The clergymen who founded and still lead POAU were not indifferent or hostile to religion any more than the American tradition which they support. This tradition may be defined as the state's conscious and purposeful disassociation from the church. This is something far different from unfriendliness or hostility. Separation of church and state does not mean that officials are atheists; it means that they know government's place regarding the church.

At a certain stage in a son's life parents disassociate themselves from the management of his affairs. This does not mean that they hate him or are indifferent to him. They have merely discovered that when that stage has been reached the best thing they can do for him is systematically to let him alone.

So governments learn, if they are wise, and churches learn, if they are wise, that the religious enterprise

flourishes best under voluntarism and in a free climate. *To create such a climate and then let the church rise or fall in it, is friendliness to religion.*

Let Faith Be Free

Let faith be free. Let there be no impediment to this freedom save what is necessary to public morality. A religious faith which cannot, out of its own contagion, evoke voluntary response deserves to die. It deserves to die because it is already dead.

To shore up such a religion with official sponsorship and tax funds is the last thing that real friends of religion would want. Religion is a virile enterprise in the U. S. today. But it would not remain so under the "friendly" treatment which Mr. Cross wants. His is the kindness that kills. Mr. Cross' "friendliness to religion" is no more than a kiss for a corpse.

Quote of the Month

Justice Joseph Story of the U. S. Supreme Court:

"Civil liberty cannot be separated from religious liberty without destruction to both. Wherever religious liberty is suppressed the church establishment will first or last become the engine of despotism and overthrow every vestige of political right."

Church and State

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CHURCH AND STATE

NEWS From Far and Near

◆ The Haitian government has issued a warrant for the arrest of Archbishop Poirier, a Frenchman, who is the island's ranking prelate of the dominant Roman Catholic Church. When the Vatican announced automatic excommunication for everyone connected with such an action, the warrant was withdrawn. Trouble between the President, Dr. Francois Duvalier, and the archbishop, stems from the former's close friendship with the Episcopal bishop and intimations that when the concordat with the Vatican comes up for renewal next year, he intends to curtail some of the privileges and benefits of the Roman Catholic Church. POAU said all along that the Haitian Treaty needed a religious freedom clause.

◆ The Hungarian Communist regime has restated an existing agreement with the churches in regard to ecclesiastical appointments. According to this, church posts may be filled by the bishops only with the previous consent of the government. But a further stipulation has been added under which the government may arbitrarily appoint its own nominees to any church post which remains vacant even for a short period.

◆ Italian Protestants have strongly protested the proposed increases in the salaries of Roman Catholic priests and their social security benefits, which are paid out of tax funds. "It must be up to the church members themselves who desire the maintenance and growth of any cult to support its ministers, Italy's Federal Council of Evangelical Churches declared. "The proposed laws imply the duty of all citizens . . . to provide for the Roman Catholic clergy."

◆ Six Jewish organizations have voiced their opposition to Mutual Security Aid for Saudi Arabia "or any other country that creates discrimination because of race or religion among American citizens in the granting of any rights otherwise available to U. S. citizens generally."

◆ The pastor of Second Baptist Church, Madrid went on trial charged with re-entering his church and conducting services there despite its previous closing by police. The church had originally been closed in 1954 on the grounds that it had been engaged in "illegal proselytizing."

◆ Entertainment-loving Irish who don't have a television station in the Republic of Ireland, are pirating their programs from England and Northern Ireland. Particularly delightful do they find the movies which the strict censorship program of the Republic had always banned.

◆ The State Department reports that Cardinal Mindszenty is remaining at the American Legation in Budapest in order to afford him protection from Hungarian Communist authorities. The report says that the Cardinal applied for permission to leave the legation and proceed to Rome in October, 1958, but it does not state that the Cardinal has applied for permission to resume his ecclesiastical functions in Hungary.

◆ Cardinal Garibi y Rivera, primate of Mexico, has been quoted in the press as stating that elimination of illiteracy and curbs on the "Protestant infiltration" in Mexico were necessary objectives for the nation. Questioned about his statements the Cardinal stood by them in substance but added that his official pronouncements were released only over his signature.

◆ A public reprimand has been given by the Netherlands Order of Lawyers, Arnhem district, to one of its members who arranged for a Roman Catholic marriage for a man whose civil marriage to another woman had not yet been dissolved. The lawyer had argued that in helping the couple he was doing his duty as a Catholic. The board replied that by abetting his clients in the violating of civil law, he had failed his duty as a lawyer.

◆ The Arabian American Oil Co. has been barred by the N. Y. State Supreme Court from asking job applicants their religious faith. Aramco claimed that U. S. foreign policy in the Near East would be disturbed if it did not uphold Arab barriers against Jews.

Freedom From The Constitution

A new organization with the ingenuous name "Citizens for Educational Freedom," devoted to "Parents Free Choice (of) Schools," has been set up in St. Louis, Mo., by Anthony W. Daly, a former judge. Mr. Daly is identified only as the father of six children who recently debated church-state issues against a Missouri State Senator at the Collinsville Methodist Church.

According to official statements of the "Educational Freedom" group, "We believe that the state . . . must in fairness provide for all school children, whether they attend public school or other schools of their parents' choice. For every child who attends a non-state school (that it, private or parochial—ed.) there should be a tuition grant for his fair share of the taxes levied for education."

"Front" Group

Asked for a comment on the new group, Glenn L. Archer, executive director of POAU, replied:

"It is obviously another of the front groups to change the Constitution by Catholic Action. All these groups have the same goal—to tap the public till for the benefit of the Roman Catholic Church. There is no question but that the fancy names and slogans of such groups fool a lot of people. This is, of course, their intention.

"One can easily detect the propaganda pitch of this group.

"Most Protestants and other citizens would object if tax money were to be paid to Catholic priests. But when Mr. Daly proposes to give the money to priests via the hands of parents and under the slogan of 'parental rights,' there are many unthinking persons who will be taken in."

The brochure of the Citizens speaks at length of parental choice in education. It makes no mention of Canon Law 1374 of the Roman Church which denies such freedom to Catholic parents, or the Constitution which says: Let each church pay its own overhead.

**National Conference
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Tax Status

(Continued from page 1)

Local Problems

Almost at the moment Dr. Blake's article appeared, local issues involving exemption on church owned properties, were erupting. In Nashville both Methodists and Baptists were hit by assessments on property which had hitherto been tax-free. Altogether \$107,508 was to be realized in taxes as a result of the new assessments on former tax-free land held by church and charitable groups.

In California the Roman Catholic Church, having won freedom from taxation for its parochial school properties, was adding to its holdings. Three blocks of land on Wilshire Blvd. in Los Angeles, owned by the Archdiocese, was to be the site of a \$1 billion-plus housing and commercial development. Purpose: to provide an endowment for parochial schools. The anticipated tax status of the project was not disclosed. The Hollywood Roosevelt and El Rancho hotel of Sacramento have been acquired for a similar purpose by the Chicago Archdiocese for a price of \$10 million. Thomas E. Hull will continue as manager and the hotels will still be called the Hull hotels. Tax status under the new arrangement was not made public.

Liquor and TV

Christian Brothers, an order of the Roman Catholic Church, makers of fine wines and brandies in California have sued to recover taxes on their unrelated business income which were paid up after widespread publicity. The Treasury Department has assessed penalties and is seeking to collect a total of \$1,351,193 from the order.

Dr. Blake's questions were further pointed up by an article in *The Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 18, which dealt with WWL and WWL-TV, commercial radio and TV stations operated by the Jesuits of Loyola University, New Orleans. The article by Donald G. Bacon points out that WWL-TV is handily beating out its competitor, WDSU-TV because, due to its getting under the church exemption, it can sell time 10% cheaper and still make a handsome profit.

The unhappy competitor who has to pay Federal taxes is Robert D. Swezey, executive vice president and general manager of WDSU-TV. He sadly remarked: "We've lost some business because of their rate structure. I don't want to be critical of their rates—it's their own business—but it's been rough competing with them."

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Bishop Lord Vs. Msgr. Lally

Msgr. Lally, editor of *The Pilot* (Roman Catholic) has chided Methodist Bishop John Wesley Lord on the latter's "questions for a Catholic candidate." Msgr. Lally thinks that questions for a Methodist candidate are quite as in order and offers some.

Msgr. Lally misses the whole point of the "questions to a Catholic candidate." Intentionally?

He cites, for example, the matter of prohibition which, he avers, the Protestants put over, and compares it with the Catholic stand on birth control laws. This analogy ought to be laid to rest where it belongs. It is no analogy at all.

Fr. Lally ought to know that prohibition was adopted after decades of free discussion and by many votes of the people. No Protestant was ever excommunicated for voting "wet."

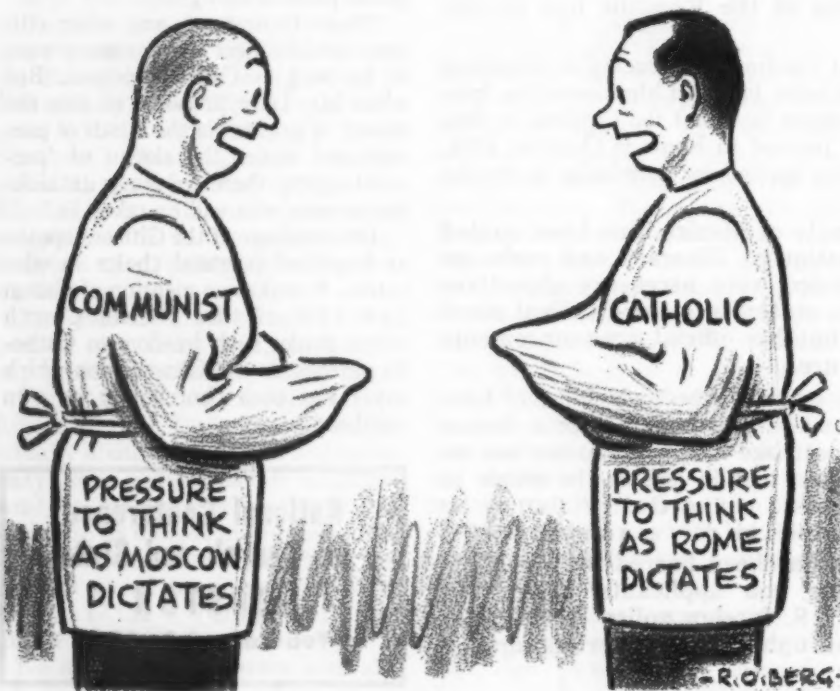
The Point of It All

But when permissive birth control legislation was up for a vote in 1942 and 1948, in Massachusetts, the stand of Catholics was determined by the "moral judgment" of the Pope without any discussion whatever. Any Catholic who dared to vote for the permissive bill was threatened with excommunication. The only way he could have voted favorably would have been to stop being a Roman Catholic.

The point of it all, is the totalitarian control over its members on "moral issues" which the Roman Church claims and implements through its clerical apparatus. This control which is the pride and joy of Roman clerics, the Methodists, for all their Methodism, do not have. They haven't got it; they can't get it; they don't want it.

The questions to a Catholic candidate are merely to determine how seriously he accepts this clerical control over his stand on "moral issues" which, of course, include everything.

"Hey, You're Wearing a Strait Jacket!"



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The Law in Action

Three taxpayers of St. Louis, members of the Public Funds for Public Uses Committee, have filed suit seeking a declaratory judgment and injunction to halt the sale of land in the Mill Creek redevelopment program to St. Louis University, a Jesuit institution. They charged that as a result of this Title One deal, "taxpayers are compelled to pay taxes for the support of religious schools." (Full story in November *Review*).

The Alabama legislature has passed a law regarding church property arrangements. Under the law, a local congregation can retain control of church property if 65% vote to secede from the connectional body.

Lawrence E. Gerosa, N. Y. City's Controller and known as "the enemy of the public schools," has been campaigning up-state in the hope of defeating a \$500,000,000 bond issue for public school construction. He claims the schools don't need the money.

Noncompulsory use of a morning prayer in New York public schools has been upheld by the State Supreme Court in Mineola. Justice Meyer did, however, rule "objectionable" the particular regulation under review, that of the Herricks School District, because it made the opening prayer "mandatory." An appeal to the Appellate Division has been noted.

Legislation is moving toward passage in Congress which would designate the fourth Sunday in September as "Inter-faith Day."

Police closed down a roulette wheel, dice and bingo games at Mary Magdalen Roman Catholic Church in Melvindale, Mich. (The Roman Catholic Church, which receives substantial revenues from gambling games, frequently runs afoul of state anti-gambling laws.)

Legislation proposed by Rep. Sidney Yates (D-Ill.) and Rep. Burr P. Harrison (D-Va.) would exempt churches from the 10% Federal transportation tax and also from the tax on phone calls and telegrams.

Florida churches are now required to pay a 3% sales tax on construction materials if these are purchased through contractors. If the church makes the purchases directly, the exemption still obtains.

A citizens' charge that a Knights of Columbus ad in *Time* magazine which extolled the virtues of the Roman Catholic Church was "fraudulent advertising," has been rejected by the Post Office Department. "In my opinion," wrote Herbert B. Warburton, general counsel, *Time* in publishing it has violated no law."

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has authorized commissioners of Middlesex County to convey to Cardinal Cushing 40 acres of public-owned land for the erection of a church and school. The legislation contains no mention of price, or taxes.

"Sunday Laws" have been tightened in Pennsylvania through passage of a new measure providing a fine of \$100 for the first offense (retail sales on Sunday) and \$200 for each subsequent offense. The old penalty had been a \$4 fine.

A Federal court has ruled that a Mass. law which forbids a Jewish market to be open on Sunday, is unconstitutional. Attorney General Edward J. McCormack indicated he would take the case to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Gov. William G. Stratton of Illinois vetoed a bill appropriating \$250,000 for a paved highway to the top of Bald Mountain, near Alto Pass, contemplated site of a huge cross. The item "must be deferred for more pressing needs of the state," Gov. Stratton said.

The Massachusetts Legislature has authorized the state board of education to participate in certain programs set up in the National Defense Education Act of 1958 which contemplate disbursement of public funds for private, secondary schools.

When the Syracuse, N. Y., metropolitan health council voted to admit the Planned Parenthood Center to membership, St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Hospitals, Roman Catholic institutions, promptly withdrew.

The Indianapolis School board voted not to permit Billy Graham crusade teams to visit the city's public schools during Graham's crusade in that city.

Private and parochial school systems which compete with and duplicate public school systems, were described by administrators of rural schools as "wasteful" and "inherently undemocratic" at their meeting at Teacher's College Columbia University.

Bremond

(Continued from page 1)

them out of the community. Both have also been threatened with the loss of their pulpits. A night caller came to McIntyre's door and threatened to beat him up.

The *Standard*, after showing that no pressure of this kind had ever been exerted against Fr. Kmiecik, asks the question: "Do Catholic priests have weaker constitutions than Methodist and Baptist preachers, or do they scare more easily?"

Who Destroys Unity?

The *Standard* could have gone on to tell what is generally known among citizens of Bremond, that a previous pastor in the community lost his pulpit as a result of economic pressures threatened against prominent businessmen in his congregation by the Catholic priest. This, because the preacher had mentioned the captive school problem, and said something ought to be done about it.

The trouble in Bremond, the Baptist publication indicates, originated not with the lawsuit, which proposes to end illegal practices in the Bremond school, but with those who initiated the practices in the first place. A "unity" built on procedures which openly flout the law is flimsy at best. At worst, it undermines and erodes the nation's strength.

Protestants Catholics & Politics

by C. Stanley Lowell

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Double-Barreled Benefits Favor Philadelphia Church

If you can't get money for the church out of one Federal pocket, get it out of two; then you can brag about how much you have saved the public.

This appeared to be the philosophy of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs as it unanimously endorsed and sent to apparently assured passage in the House, a bill providing funds for the enhancement of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Philadelphia.

Earlier church beneficiaries of Federal largesse were Christ Church and Gloria Dei (both Protestant Episcopal) and St. Georges (Methodist).

The grants are involved in the citation of the church as a "historic site" and its acceptance of an agreement with the government whereby it promises to maintain its own building. The government then condemns surrounding land, buys it, clears it, landscapes and maintains it for the benefit of the church which continues to operate as a parish church of its denomination.

Something Special

The story of Old St. Joseph's is something special. Originally, the church asked a million and a half in Federal funds. POAU protested such legislation just as it did in the case of the grants for the other churches. The bill was withdrawn. When the proposal appeared again in the 86th Congress the amount had apparently been reduced to \$46,200.

In a dither of self-congratulation which included their colleague, Rep. Byrne (D-Pa.) author of the bill, members of the committee happily endorsed the measure. After all, they were "saving a lot of money for the public."

Back of the alleged "money saving" lies a weird tale. In the first place, the actual expense, as the Interior Department showed, was \$100,200, the difference being funds which the Independence Park Authority already had available.

Quicker Than the Eye

More interesting, though, was a quick maneuver which drew on Federal funds for the church from still another source. Federal Housing authorities were persuaded to include the area around St. Joseph's in a Title One redevelopment project. Then the Independence Park Commission was selected as one of the "bidders" to redevelop this area. They were "chosen" as the redeveloper and the government then re-sold the land

it had acquired by condemnation and which it is to clear, back to itself, at a much reduced figure. How much was involved in these tangled transactions the POAU investigation has thus far not been able to determine.

Now, however, the Independence Park people are able to acquire the land as "unimproved" for the seemingly innocuous price of \$46,200 rather than the original million and a half.

Rep. O'Brien (D - N. Y.) spoke with fine feeling about the reduction in the cost to the government in the legislation before the committee. Rep. Burdick (D - N. Dak.) who had opposed previous enhancing grants for the churches said that since the precedent had been established in church grants, he felt he could not vote against the one for St. Joseph's.

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Archer Tours Nation For American Freedom

In July and early August, POAU Executive Director Glenn L. Archer made 51 addresses, traveled 12,000 miles, spoke to 40,000 Americans and helped local leaders organize a number of POAU chapters.

All meetings were well attended. The largest were Los Angeles, 15,000 people, and Portland, Oregon, 10,000. Besides his West Coast appearances, Archer spoke in the Mountain and Southwest states. He spent a week in New Mexico on tour with Dr. Lewis A. Myers, well-known Baptist leader of that state.

Wherever he went, Mr. Archer conferred with counsel on local legal problems, held conferences with persons interested in contributing to POAU, and encouraged local leaders in their important work.

He was present in San Francisco for the premiere of POAU'S new film, "CAPTURED."

Ohio Prosecutor Restores Captive School to Public

In an opinion which reverberated throughout the state of Ohio, county prosecutor Randall Metcalf has recommended that the contracts of four Roman Catholic nuns, serving as teachers in the Churchtown elementary school in Washington County, not be renewed. His recommendation was unanimously approved by the school board.

The official made it clear that he was not acting contrary to a previous opinion by Ohio's attorney general that it is legal to engage nuns in their garb as teachers in public schools of the state. It was not the presence of the nuns, but what they were doing with the school, that brought the recommendation. Metcalf found that the institution was a "captive school"—that it was, in his own expression, "a parochial school supported by public taxation."

(Ed. note: According to a statement of the National Catholic Welfare Conference released July 23, no such institutions exist).

Kickback to Catholic Parents

The prosecutor objected to the nun-taught school on a number of grounds: (1) that 65 students of the school district (presumably Protestants) had found it necessary to withdraw from the school because of the religious teaching. (2) that the local priest was charging the school board a \$250 monthly rental for the parish school, then kicking this money back to Catholic parents who paid out-of-the-district fees for the privilege of sending their children to a Catholic school. (3) that the Churchtown school was drawing Catholic children who were coming, without permission, from other districts. (4) that this school district "is under the complete control and domination of a religious sect. . . . Its operation is intentionally and deliberately to provide religious instruction."

Metcalf also stated his opinion that the kickback of the Board of Education's money by the priest to the Catholic parents of children attending from other districts "is a sham—a disguise to do indirectly that which could not be done directly." He stated that "continuing operation of the Churchtown school in the same manner as it was operated last year is unlawful. It is a violation of the First and Fourteenth

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CHURCH AND STATE



Sister Mary Aquinas, the "Flying Nun"

Captive School

(Continued from page 6)

Amendments to the Constitution of the U. S. and of Section II, Article 6 of the Constitution of the State of Ohio."

The four nuns at the school were imported from Ireland by way of South Africa and have been teaching under "emergency certification" because of their lack of training. Supt. of Schools, Ralph Tullis threatens to hire legal counsel with the idea of overriding the board's own attorney and forcing the nuns back into the Churchtown school.

A groundswell of popular support for the county prosecutor was detected around the state, particularly in circles where resentment over the nun teacher ruling of Attorney General Saxbe had been vocal. POAU leaders throughout Ohio were rallying support for resistance to sectarian encroachment on the state's public schools.

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Bus Legislation Sought in Maine

Following the decision of the Maine Supreme Court which held invalid use of public funds for transportation to private schools (July Review),

a conference of the governor and legislative leaders has decided it unwise to call a special session of the legislature to deal with the problem. Bishop Daniel J. Feeney, ranking Roman Catholic prelate in Maine, had demanded a special session because of an "emergency."

Several communities had been granting the transportation prior to the decision and questioned whether they should end the practice. Speaking of these communities, attorney general Frank Hancock said: "Their solicitors have read the decision just as I have."

Springboard?

The governor and his committee have recommended a careful study of the many aspects of the problem. POAU leaders have expressed the hope that the study, if made, will be more than a propaganda springboard for Catholic legislative demands. They hope that the more than \$500,000 indicated annual expense to the taxpayers will be carefully weighed, as well as the added expense to communities in duplicating overheads through the multiplication of competing private schools.

One POAU leader remarked: "The bus is, of course, only the first item in the expense of these private, sectarian operations which, it is hoped, can be transferred to the taxpayer's expense. The study commission should survey the dangers of creating precedent in this field."

Supersonic Nun Takes Public for a Ride

The combination of a 65-year-old Roman Catholic nun with ambitions to break the sound barrier, and an imaginative press agent, was good for some nation-wide publicity recently. Unfortunately, there was little or no truth in the press agent's tales.

The press all around the country picked up stories of Sister Aquinas of Green Bay, Wis., whose feats are legendary. Sister Aquinas, the stories said, flies Navy and Air Force jets all the time. Her widely publicized flight to break the sound barrier was to be in an Air Force jet, the stories declared, and Air Force instructors were to prepare her for the flight. A new patron saint for the Air Force was apparently in the making.

A POAU inquiry to the Air Force resulted in a denial of the whole thing from Col. Earl T. Reichert of the Community Relations Division. "The incident to which you refer," Col. Reichert wrote, "relates to a press release issued by an individual in the school in Green Bay, Wis., at which Sister Aquinas teaches science. The release was misleading and resulted in news articles which were also misleading."

Apparently the only basis to the story was that Sister Aquinas had once visited Hamilton Air Force Base with a group of teachers. She and other members of the class were given, as part of their tour of the post, "a short familiarization flight in a C-119 aircraft."

The letter added: "At no time did the Air Force offer to provide this individual a course of instruction in jet aircraft or a supersonic flight aboard an Air Force aircraft."

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Baxter Ends Alleged Church-State Tie

A storm raised by Roman Catholic clerics over what they charged was use of public funds by the Methodists for the operation of Baxter Seminary in Tennessee, has been stilled by the sale of the institution to the public school board. The situation was brought to the attention of POAU in 1957 by a Roman Catholic priest, Fr. Paul H. Hallett, associate editor of *The Catholic Register*. (See Review, Oct. 1957)

Dr. William A. Cook of the POAU staff visited Baxter Seminary and discussed the nature of the school's operations with its president and with the general secretary of the Methodist Board of Education. Many of Fr. Hallett's allegations were found to be without substance, but there appeared to be a channeling of certain public funds to the institution which was being "hired" by the Putnam County Board for use as the county's public high school.

This arrangement has now been ended with the sale of the Methodist secondary school to the public school authorities. It will henceforth be operated strictly as a public school.

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"Brothers" Under Fire; Marines Retreat

The U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, which was to have constructed an aggregate of buildings for Christian Brothers College in Memphis, Tenn., will not do so, according to an announcement of Brother Lambert Thomas, president of that institution.



—Washington Post Photo
Amish leaders, seeking exemption for their sect from compulsory Social Security laws, wait patiently in Washington to speak to Congressmen.

In a statement issued August 12, Under-Secretary of the Navy, F. A. Bantz said: "We do not presently plan to construct the Marine Corps Reserve Training Center on the campus of Christian Brothers College."

Under the proposed arrangement, the Navy would build an armory, classroom building, drill hall, maintenance garage and parking lot on the Christian Brothers campus—all to blend with the present architecture of the college. The college would have used the buildings during the day and the Marine Corps at night. The buildings could be declared "surplus" and donated to the college on 30 days notice and would, in any case, revert ultimately to that institution.

Vigorous protest by the Memphis

Chapter of POAU was occasion for a close appraisal of the proposal by the Navy Department and the eventual negative decision.

At a hearing of the House Committee on Armed Services, C. Stanley Lowell of POAU, referring to the proposed agreement with the Christian Brothers, said: "By what tortuous application of public law the military can construct new surplus buildings for a church-operated college, we do not know. We do contend that such an interlocking between the government and a church . . . is in utter violation of the American principle of separation of church and state."

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